

U.S. Congressman Mike Pence submitted the following tribute into the Congressional record honoring Army Staff Sergeant Phillip Jenkins of Decatur, who died on September 7, 2010 while serving in Iraq.

“I rise with a heavy heart to honor the sacrifice and courage of a young Hoosier who lost his life while supporting Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

“Staff Sergeant Phillip Jenkins was providing security for a visiting commander when he was mortally wounded by hostile fire. Despite the dangerous nature of military service, Staff Sergeant Jenkins always knew he wanted to join the Army. Like so many before him, Staff Sergeant Jenkins bravely answered the call of duty. We will long remember the passion and dedication he had for his country, and the joy he had for life.

“Staff Sergeant Jenkins is a true American hero, but the tragedy of such a loss as this is never easy. I give my most sincere condolences to Staff Sergeant Jenkins’ wife, Melissa, and two young daughters, Lindly and Piper; mother, Rose Jenkins; sister Cassie Jenkins; mother-in-law Debby Feurer; father-in-law Mike Hays; two brother-in-laws Matt Hays and Nick Hays; and paternal grandmother Darlene Carlile. The Good Book tells us that ‘The Lord is close to the brokenhearted,’ and that is my prayer for the family of Staff Sergeant Phillip Jenkins.”